MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: May I know why some quantity is being kept as reserve when the allotment has been reduced to one half?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: It may take some time to allot quantities for a particular month. So it is always advantageous to have something in reserve.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: May I know when the ration was given in the month of Mithunam to card holders in Vaikom?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: On 10th Mithunam.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: May I know whether the same reduction in allotment has been made in the case of the other taluks as well?

MR. A. S DAMODARAN ASAN: Some proportionate reduction has been made in respect of all the taluks.

Sugar ration in teashops.

409. ✻MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of sugar rationed to teashops in Kottayam town in Medom and Edavom 1121?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN:

Medom 1121 ... 21 bags and 93 lbs.
Edavom 1121 ... 21 bags and 93 lbs.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: May I know whether the teashops in Kottayam town were given their full ration of sugar?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: There is no question of ration so far as sugar is concerned.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: I nnderstand cards are being issued to tea shop holders and the quantity of sugar to be given is also fixed every month. May I know whether any reduction in quantity was effected to the ration card holders belonging to teashops?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: The sugar distribution at Kottayam is done by the Tahsildar. I am not exactly sure of the number of ration cards issued there by him and whether any reductions were made in the quantity to be issued etc.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether there is any instruction from Government that the tea shop people must get along with sugar the sort of milk powder which is yellow in colour and found to be not useable for human consumption? I saw that in Changanacherry.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: No, Sir.

MR. P. C. THOMAS: May I know whether there is any regulation in the matter of price of tea and coffee in the tea shops?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: No, Sir.

PRESIDENT: It is suggested by Mr. Mathew that in certain places it has been remarked by people who take sugar that they must take milk powder also. In what place is that?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. A. MATHEW: While I was at Changanacherry, it was brought to my notice that whenever a person gets sugar he must buy milk-powder also.

PRESIDENT: Will the Excise Commissioner enquire into the matter?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. E K. MADHAVAN: It has been brought to my notice also that in Parur the same thing existed. In the Alwaye town also people who got sugar were asked to purchase milk powder, and so far as the milk powder is concerned it is not a fit commodity for human consumption. A gentleman came up to me and said that the authorities are insisting on getting milk powder along with sugar. I pointed out this fact to the Commissioner of the Alwaye Municipality. He also stated that there was a definite instruction to that effect from the Excise Commissioner.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: I will just explain the position. It appears that under the direction of the Food Department the Tahsildars were specially asked to persuade some of the tea shop merchants to purchase some quantity of milk powder. Later on, certain complaints were received that that commodity was not good and was unfit for consumption It was also remarked by the people that the purchase of the same was insisted upon by Tahsildars. Immediately, I brought these matters to the notice of Government and got them rectified. The tea shop holders who had taken milk powder were requested to return the stocks and instructions were issued not to issue that kind of milk powder any further.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know why such a direction happened to be issued?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Because it was presumed to be good.

PRESIDENT: The Government of India sent round instructions to all the Provinces and States that there was a considerable quantity of milk powder which was very essential, especially in the condition prevailing in Malabar, Cochin and Travancore because there was not enough of those elements necessary for the problem of nutrition. Therefore they offered to supply a certain quantity of powder. I think this Government purchased a considerable amount of milk powder to the tune of Rs. 20 lakhs. That coloured powder was used in hospitals and was reported that it was a satisfactory arrangement. Subsequently, complaints were received about the supply of milk powder which were received after the first instalment. In fact most of the commodities sent by the Government of India such as wheat, maize-flower, bajra, atta etc. were found to be bad varieties and were not fit for consumption. I will tell the House what is really happening in such cases. The Province of Sind is a surplus province. They have surplus rice to be disposed of. They agree to supply to Governments such as ours.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Immediately when an opportunity comes, they will dump that quantity on the Government of India who in return would supply to us. Whenever our supply is reported to be unfit for human consumption, I have always brought it to the attention of the Government of India. In very many cases, I have strongly protested against these things. That being the case, the best service that the honourable members can do in such a situation is they must report to Government that such and such a commodity is unfit for human consumption and that the same be returned to the place from which it was imported here. If such a thing were reported to us, we could have written to the Government of India, saying that this was the kind of stuff supplied to us and that we are asked to consume such a rotten stuff. We could have asked the Government of India to take these rotten things back and return the money instead. So excepting the discussions of such type on the floor of the House, I have not heard any protest being made by any honourable member of this House. In fact I was trying to get such reports. The honourable member Mr. E. K. Madhavan did not publish these things till now. On the other hand he was giving a picturesque story of what happened in Vaikom on this matter. If the honourable member had brought this matter to the Excise Commissioner he would have immediately taken action and reported to Government and the Government as a consequence might have sent back the rotten commodity to the Government of India and made a claim on them for the return of the money.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: As soon as information about the milk powder reached me, I pointed it out to the Commissioner of the Alwaye Municipality and I know that he had sent some communication on the subject to the Excise Commissioner, and all the rest of it. I was vigilant enough to bring that aspect of the matter to the Excise Commissioner as well as to the Commissioner of the Alwaye Municipality.

PRESIDENT: But the honourable member could have in his question added this point as well, instead of bringing this matter in the present fashion

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: Sir, from the answer given by my honourable friend the Excise Commissioner, it appears that sugar has to be bought on a Municipal basis than on a population basis.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: But I have to say that sugar is not required for all sections of the people at the same rate.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: But we do not get enough of it

PRESIDENT: What does the honourable member suggest?

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: It should be divided on a population basis.

Sale of foreign liquor.

410. * MR. P. S. GOPALA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) how many licensees there are for the sale of foreign liquor at present;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly